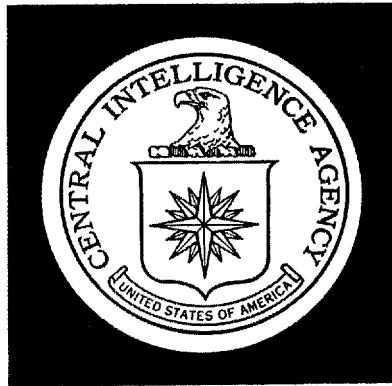


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Dahomey: Pressures are building that could culminate in the ouster of President Soglo.

The labor unrest which began last week has grown worse. Most workers in the two key urban centers remain out on strike despite significant concessions by the government. These include the rescinding of last week's ban on labor activities, the release of detained union leaders, and an offer to negotiate the controversial "solidarity tax." The unions now demand the immediate suspension of the tax as an essential condition for ending their general strike.

Since midweek the labor agitation has begun to look like a move to topple the Soglo government. On 14 December tracts demanding Soglo's resignation appeared in Cotonou, and recent reports suggest the workers plan to continue their strike until Soglo and the government fall.

Chief of Staff Alley, who now has only minority support within the officer corps, apparently has sought to protect his position by currying favor with the strikers, at the expense of Soglo and the civilians in the government. Soglo has already backed down from his recent attempt to curtail Alley's power.

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NOTES

Denmark: Prime Minister Krag has called for new elections on 23 January. His minority government was defeated in a parliamentary vote on 15 December. Dissident elements in the leftist Socialist People's Party parliamentary group broke ranks to vote against a government bill which Krag had made into a vote of confidence. Since public opinion polls indicate Krag's Social Democrats may suffer greater losses than they did in 1966, it will be difficult for them to return to office and the parties on the right may succeed them.

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*Guatemala: Two serious fires that broke out in Guatemala City on 14 December have been attributed to the Communist Rebel Armed Forces. [Several false alarms were turned in at the same time in an evident attempt to spread confusion.] Security officials reportedly imposed martial law last night. This is the first serious outbreak of Communist activity in several months and may presage a renewed wave of terrorism in the capital.

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